

The Honorable Bob Traxler
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



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10-27-79

Dear Representative Traxler:

Your concerns related in your October 18, 1979 letter, regarding the foundry sand disposal site in Bridgeport Township, Saginaw County, are appreciated as there has been a good deal of local opposition to the project.

Staff members, including technical and enforcement personnel have been extensively involved in this particular site for some months now to reaffirm the suitability of the site, specifically for foundry sand disposal, operation acceptability, and investigation of the numerous allegations which have been made by local citizens regarding the facility.

We have determined that the site is acceptable for disposal of foundry sand and that protection of ground and surface waters has been provided for. We have no reason to believe that the Federal Bankruptcy Court has given preferential treatment to the continued operation of the facility over public health and environmental concern. On this point we can only relate to an impression staff has received during court appearances.

The Department of Natural Resources is continuing its efforts to monitor the site and operation, including sampling of the groundwater, to an extent far beyond our capability to offer comparable control efforts for other sites with greater potential for environmental impact. At the present time, the Attorney General is reviewing the bond submitted for its acceptability in relationship to a license application; the site and operation continues in compliance with the State Solid Waste Management Law.

A number of allegations have been made regarding this project and the Department's involvement. Among such allegations is that the county health department denied the permit for the site prior to issuance by the Department Natural Resources. Review of this project by the county health department

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was minimal, at best. It is our opinion that the local health department did not desire to review or process the applications; therefore, the Department of Natural Resources did not receive any recommendation from them regarding the site. The site review, as well as the on-going inspection and surveillance of the site and operation has been conducted almost entirely by staff of the Department of Natural Resources.

We will continue our close surveillance of this facility and evaluate its overall compliance with the Act and the rules.

Sincerely,

Howard A. Tanner
Director

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cc: John Robertson, Director's Office